

Serial No.: 10/825,799

PATENT APPLICATION
Docket No.: NC 84,981

does not disclose the —OCN groups recited in claim 21. As all the claim limitations have not been disclosed, a *prima facie* case of anticipation has not been made.

Claims 23-25 depend from and contain all the limitations of claim 21. The arguments regarding the lack of *prima facie* for claim 21 are applicable to claims 23-25.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 21, 23, 24, and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Srinivasan et al. (*High Perform. Polym.*).

Claim 21 recites a structure containing —O—Ar¹—O—. Ar¹ is a phenyl group.

In order to make a *prima facie* case of obviousness, each claim limitation must be disclosed in the references (MPEP 2143.03). Among other deficiencies, the reference does not disclose the —O—Ph—O— structure recited in claim 21. As all the claim limitations are not disclosed in the reference, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been made.

Claims 23 and 24 depend from and contain all the limitations of claim 21. The arguments regarding the lack of *prima facie* for claim 21 are applicable to claims 23 and 24.

Claim 26 recites certain poly(arylene ether ketone)s. The Examiner stated that it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply the cited conditions in Scheme 2 of the reference into Scheme 3. Scheme 3 discloses poly(arylene ether sulfone)s. Scheme 2 discloses converting hydroxy functionalization to cyanate ester functionalization. If Scheme 2 were applied to Scheme 3, the result would be cyanate ester functionalized poly(arylene ether sulfone)s, not the recited poly(arylene ether ketone)s. As all the claim limitations are not disclosed in the reference, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been made.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

In the event that a fee is required, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0281,

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and in the event that there is a credit due, please credit Deposit Account No. 50-0281.

Respectfully submitted,



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